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THERE ARE NO SMALL IDEAS
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SeppLeaf
GILDING AWARDS
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Annual Religious Buildings Issue

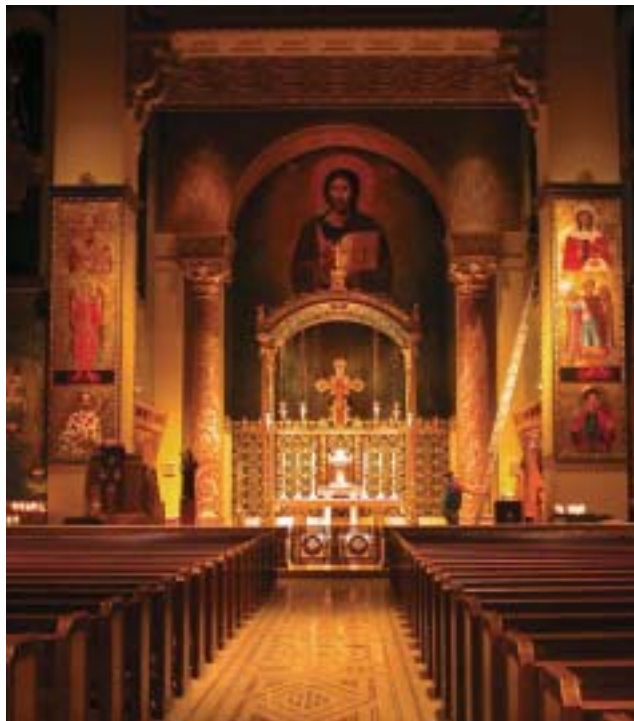
GILDING AWARDS

The first annual Pride of Place Awards celebrate the best of gilding and decorative finishing.

Earlier this year, New York, NY-based Sepp Leaf Products, Inc., in conjunction with the opening of its newly designed showroom and Pride of Place Gallery, announced the winners of its 2005 Pride of Place Competition. The awards program was established by the company, an international distributor of gold and metal leaf and supplies, to honor outstanding work in the fields of gilding and decorative finishing.

"We are fortunate to work with tremendously creative and talented artisans the world over," says Jennifer Longworth, Sepp Leaf's sales director. "Gilding is a highly specialized craft, and we are honored to know a broad range of gilders, some of whom work with traditional, centuries-old methods and some who are constantly pushing the envelope - making leaf do things it has never done before. Through their work, gilding is now becoming more and more a part of preservation, as well as new architecture and design.

"The Pride of Place Gallery and Competition evolved from the perception that these gilders merit recognition and praise for their achievements."



Using a traditional process, Ken Jan Woo created seven devotional icons for the Church of Our Savior in New York City, earning the Hoboken, NJ-based artist a 2005 Sepp Leaf Pride of Place Gilding and Decorative Finishing Award. Photo: courtesy of Ken Jan Woo



"Aurora Borealis," one of several verre églomisé murals created by Christianson Lee Studios and installed on the Queen Mary 2, measures 10x5½ ft. The Ridgefield, CT, company won a 2005 Sepp Leaf award in the Verre Églomisé category. Photo: courtesy of Christianson Lee Studios

Most Distinguished Awards were given in eight categories, as selected by a panel of six judges: Doug Wilson, designer for TLC's Trading Spaces; Margaret Braun, a sugar artist and the author of "Cakewalk"; Mark Heiser, managing director of the New York State Theater; Cassandra Lozano, managing director of the Roy Lichtenstein Foundation; John Oddy, executive director of the Royal Oak Foundation; and Clem Labine, founding editor of *Old House Journal*, *Traditional Building* and *Period Homes*.

In the Exterior Gilding category, the award went to The Gilders' Studio, Inc., for the restoration of Daniel Chester French's "Winged Victory" (1924), a 20-ft.-tall statue that sits atop the First Division Memorial in Washington, DC.

The Olney, MD, company used a heavy-weight 23.75-k gold leaf in the re-gilding.

For Interior Gilding, Hoboken, NJ-based Ken Jan Woo was recognized for the devotional icons created for the Church of Our Savior in New York, NY. Using a traditional process - wood treated with animal glue, ten coats of chalk gesso, a coat of red clay, gilded and then painted with oil tempera -



Left: Daniel Chester French's "Winged Victory," which sits atop the First Division Memorial in Washington, DC, was re-gilded by The Gilders' Studio, winning the Olney, MD, company a 2005 Sepp Leaf Award in the Exterior Gilding category. Photo: courtesy of The Gilders' Studio, Inc.

Woo produced seven icons for the church, highlighted by a 24-ft.-tall image of Jesus Christ.

Lillian Heard Studio, a Brooklyn, NY, company that specializes in wall finishes and Venetian plaster, received the prize in Decorative Painting for its work with Kolcaustico Venetian plaster and Mixol tints.

In the Verre Églomisé category, the award went to

Christianson Lee Studios, Inc., of Ridgefield, CT, for glass murals commissioned by Cunard and installed on the Queen Mary 2. Verre églomisé is the process of gilding and engraving on the back side of glass, resulting in a mirror-like effect.

Kathleen Allen and Associates, of Dallas, TX, took the Interior Design award for the decoration of a Louisiana residence, including design, carving and gilding based on Classical Italian sources.

In the Finely Finished Wood category, East Haddam, CT-based Architectural Finishes, LLC was recognized for its use of Liberon wood finishes and Mixol tints for a project in a private residence that included French polishing, ebonizing, gilding, glazing and graining.

Willem van Es Design Studio Ltd., a New York, NY-based creator of murals, decorative finishes and custom wall coverings, received the Gilded Wallcovering award.

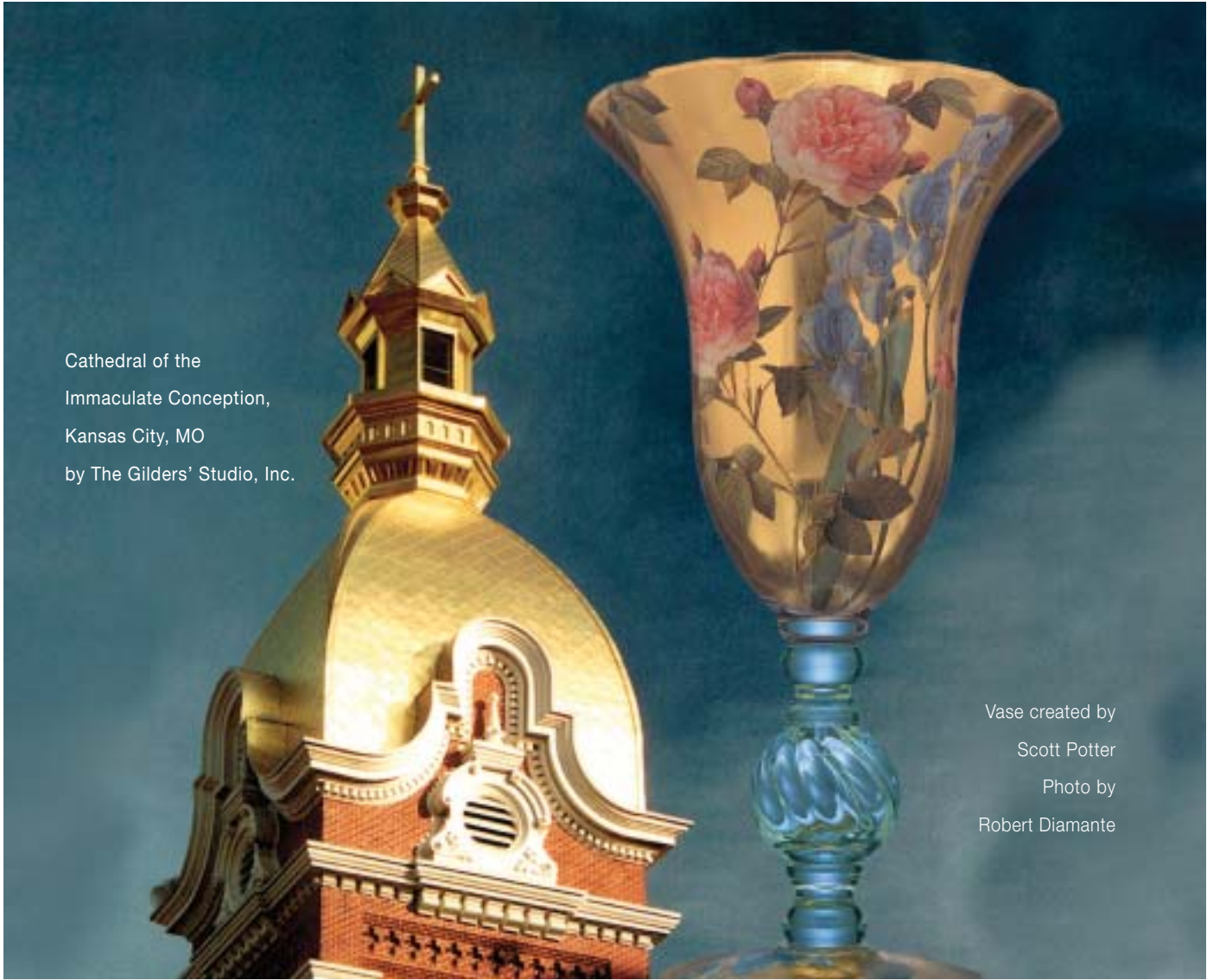
In the Gilded Object category, the Tara statue of the Kadampa Buddhist Temple, located in upstate New York, was recognized.

Special recognition was also given to The Finished Wall, of New York, NY, for traditionally water-gilded architectural decoration; Marco Gosar, of New York, NY, for oil gilding with trompe l'oeil; Ina Brosseau Marx and Allen Marx, founders of The Finishing School, for teaching; and Lee Grimsbo, of New York Central Art Supply, in New York, NY, for outstanding distribution.

"This was our inaugural competition, and the first in the country to celebrate excellence in the gilding field," says Longworth. "The new gallery space showcases the diverse use of gold leaf; it is a center where architect, artisan and material convene." - Will Holloway

Right: Along with the awards, Sepp Leaf Products unveiled its newly designed showroom and Pride of Place Gallery earlier this year. The gallery showcases customers' decorative projects and displays samples of gold, silver and metal leaf. The company also hosts monthly seminars on interior and exterior gilding processes. Photo: courtesy of Sepp Leaf Products, Inc.





Cathedral of the
Immaculate Conception,
Kansas City, MO
by The Gilders' Studio, Inc.

Vase created by
Scott Potter
Photo by
Robert Diamante

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